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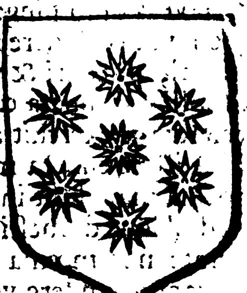
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MUSCIPULA,

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Cambro-Muo-machia.

BODLEIAN
27 APR 1932

MOnticolam Britonem, qui primus vincula Muri
Finxit, & exiguum cohibebat carcere furem,
Lethaleſque dolos & inextricabile fatum
Muſa, refer: Tu, Phœbe potens (nam te quoque quondam
Muribus infeſtum dixerunt Sminthea vates)
Sis præſens; & tot Cambrorum montibus unum
Parnaſſum excipiens, faveas dum pingere verſu
Res tenues, humilique juvat colludere Muſâ.
Mus inimicum animal, prædari & vivere rapto
Suetum impune diu ſpolii quâ innata cupido
Juſſerat, erravit: ſceleratam exercuit artem
Impune, & ſaliens hinc illinc cuncta maligno
Corrupit dente, & patinâ male luſit in omni.
Nil erat intactum, ſed ubique domeſticus hoſtis
Aſſiduus conviva aderat: non mœnia furtis
Obſtare, aut ſeſe poterant defendere vectes
Robuſtæque fores: qua non data porta peredit
Ipſe ſibi introitum, dapibuſque indulſit inemptis.
Peſtis at hæc totum dum ſerpſit inulta per orbem,
Cambria præcipue flevit: quia caſeus illic
Multus olet, quem Mus, non æquè ac plurima, libat,
Aut leviter tantum arrodit, ſed dente frequenti
Excavat, interiuſque domos ſibi ſcalpit edules.
Gens tota incenſa eſt ſuper his, rabieſque doloroque
Diſcruciant animos, fremdent, juga ſumma pererrant,

Stare

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Stare loco ignorant; nam Cambris prona furori
Corda dedit natura, & atroci pectora bile
Ferveſcunt; credas animos quoque ſulphure tinctos.
Ergo jubente irâ dignas cum ſanguine pœnas
Sumere decretum eſt, ſed quâ ratione latronem
Tam cautum opprimerent, quo vindice furta repellant
Incertum: neque Felis enim tua, Cambre, tueri
Limina, nec miſeris poterat ſuccurrere rebus.
Illa quidem varias poſuit circum ora cavernæ
Inſidias, tacitoque pede ad cava limina repens
Excubias egit, fruſtrà; Mus nempe puſillo
Corpore ſecurus, tantò & præſtantior hoſte
Quo minor, intentam prædæ ſi fortè videret
Limine cuſtodem, retro irruit, inque receſſus
Terga dedit curvos, atque invia felibus antra.
Inde caput metuens iterum proferre, nec auſus
Excurſus tentare novos, dum caſtra moveret
Hoſtis: & omne aberat vigili cum fele perîculum.
Cambria ſic olim (liceat componere Muri)
Victorem eluſit, cum jam, domito orbe, Britannos
Imperio adjecit Cæſar. Sic nempe receſſit
Ad latebras gens tota, & inexpugnabile vallum,
Montes. Sic ſua ſaxa inter, medioque ruinæ
Delituit tuta, & deſperans vincere, vinci
Noluit, hinc priſcos memorant longo ordine patres
Indomitaſque crepant terras, linguæque ſenectam.
Felinos igitur poſtquam Mus ſæpius ungues
Fugerat, & Britoni ſpes non erat inde ſalutis,
Concilium accitur, ſupremo in limine terræ,
Littus ad Heſperium, qua nunc Menevia plorat
Curtatos Mitræ titulos, & nomen inane
Semiſepultæ urbis. Properant hinc inde frequentes
Patreſque, proceresque, & odorum ſulphure vulgus.
Tum ſenior, cui ſæpe ſuis in montibus hircus
Prolixam invidit barbam; cuique ora manuſque
Fœda incruſtavit ſcabies, ſic gutture rauco
Præcipitans balbas voces: non, inquit, aperto

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De Bello, ſed Furto agitur; non exterus hoſtis,
At majus, graviuſque malum, nimis intimus hoſpes
Compulit hùc populum; dominabitur uſque Tyrannus
Mus petulans? Vos ergo Patres, Venerabilis ordo,
Queis patriæ precioſa ſalus, finite dolores
Conſilio noſtros, & ſi ſpes ulla ſuperſit,
Propitias adhibete manus: ſic Cadwaladeri
Dum clareſcat honos, veſtra hic quoque gloria vivet.
Dixit; & ante oculos fragmenta & mucida tollens
Fruſtula, reliquias muris, monumenta rapinæ,
Exacuit Cambrorum iram; jamque æmulus ardor
Vindictæ, tum laudis amor ſub pectore Patrum
Arſit, inauditam meditatur quiſque ruinam
Muri, & Muſcipulam fere parturit omne cerebrum.
At quidam ante alios notus cognomine Taffi
Et magis ingenio celebris, cui Wallia nunquam
Æqualem peperit, Faber idem, idemque Senator
Eximius, ſic orſus erat. Si gloria gentis
Caſeus intereat, metuo ne tota colonum
Deficiat cœna & menſæ decus omne ſecundæ
Divitibus pereat: quoniam ergo Wallica virtus,
Et feles nequeant ſuperare hæc monſtrula, fabri
Dextera quid poſſit, quid machina parva, dolique
Experiar: Dolus an virtus quis in hoſte requirit?
Talia jactantem circumſtant undique fixis
Hærentes oculis, ſperataque gaudia læto
Murmure certatim teſtantur; & unde ſalutem
Promiſſam expectant quærunt, ardentque doceri.
Ille caput ſcalpens (nam multum ſcalpere Cambris
Expedit) horrendum ſubriſit, & ora reſolvens
Talia verba refert: Cum feſſus membra quieti
Heſterna ſub nocte dedi, & ſopor altus habebat
Lumina, Mus audax, ſectatus opinor odores
Quos non concoctus pingui exhalavit ab ore
Caſeus, acceſſit furtim & compage ſolutis
Faucibus irrepſit; jamque ipſa in viſcera lapſus
Ventris opes miſeras ſpoliare, epuliſque paravit

Luxu-

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Luxuriare meis, tacitoque in gutture paſci.
Excuſſus ſubito ſomnis, ſub dente latronem,
Dum reſilire parat, prenſi, arreptumque tenebam
Mordaci laqueo. Sic ergo carcere Murem
Poſſe capi doctus, cito parva ergaſtula, mecum
Hæc meditans, ſtatui frabricare, animoque catenas
Effinxi tales, mihi quas ſuggeſſerat oris
Captivus. Mirum O! quali regit omnia lege
Dextra arcana Jovis! quam cæcis paſſibus errat
Cauſarum ſeries! nobis Mus ipſe ſalutem
Invitus dedit, & quos attulit ante dolores,
Tollere jam docuit: neve hunc habuiſſe Magiſtrum
Vos pudeat Patres; fas eſt vel ab hoſte doceri.
Hæc ubi dicta, domum repetit, comitantur euntem
Plaudentes populi, atque benigna laboribus optant
Omnia. Tum celeri ſua quiſque ad limina curſu
Nuncius it, Laribuſque refert quæ munera Taffi
Ingenio ſperanda forent; dumque ordine narrant
Omnia, dumque Deis, ut tanta, incepta ſecundent,
Vota ferunt; monitæ præſago pectore feles
Plus ſolito luſere, (& ſi fas credere famæ)
Sub manibus matrum ſaliere coagula Lactis.
Interea Taffi manibuſque animoque viciſſim
Inſtat magno operi, & divinâ Palladis arte
Muſcipulam ædificat; fit machina mira, novâque
Induitur vultûs ſpecie tragi-comica moles.
Quin age, ſi tibi Muſa vacat, ſpectacula pandas
Infantis fabricæ, & percurrens ſingula, totam
Compagem expedias. Quadrati lamina ligni
Summum imumque tegit: filorum ferreus ordo
Munit utrumque latus, parviſque uti fulta columnis
Stat domus: introitus patet inſidioſus, amicum
Muribus hoſpitium oſtentans, ſed deſuper horret
Janua, perniciem meditans, tenuique ruina
Suſpenſa eſt filo; (uſque adeo ſua ſtamina Parcæ
Ducunt Muri etiam & pendent fata omnia filo.)
Supremæ tabulæ mediâ de parte biſulco

Vertice

Vertice ſtat lignum erectum, cui parvula trabes
Tranſverſim poſita inſeritur, juſtèque libratas
Utrinque extendit palmas, quarum altera quantum
Deprimitur, tantum annexam levat altera portam.
Interiore domo, per tecti exile foramen
Demiſſum pendet ferrum, quod mobile ludit
Huc illuc facili tactu: curvatur in hamum
Infima pars, eſcamque tenet; pars altera trabem
Extremam leviter premit, at dimittere rurſus
Non dubitat, minimum quamprimum ſenſerit ictum.
His ita diſpoſitis, pendentem protinus hamum
Induit inſidiis Taffi, exitioſaque Muri
Ipſa alimenta facit. Sed quo fragrantior eſſet
Caſeus, & Mures invitet longius eſcam
Fatalem torret flammis, vimque addit odori.
Et jam nox memoranda aderat, cum feſſa cubili
Membra levans Taffi, juxta pulvinar amicam
Muſcipulam ſtatuit, fidoque ſatellite tutus
Indulſit facili ſomno: gens improba Mures
Interea exiliunt læti, noctiſque ſilentis
Præſidio confiſi errant: tum naribus acer
Mus quidam, Dux eximius, Diis natus iniquis,
Caſtra inimica petit, quo grato flamine toſtus
Caſeus allexit. Venienti prima reſiſtunt
Clathra, aditumque negant, ſed turpem ferre repulſam
Ille indignatus, munimina ferrea circum
Curſitat, & criſpat naſum, introitumque ſagaci
Explorat barba; jamque irremeabile limen
Ingreſſus, votique potens, triſtem arripit eſcam,
Exitiumque vorat lætus, potiturque ruina.
Taffi, exaudito ſtrepitu, quem penduſa porta
Lapſa dedit, cubito erigitur thalamoque triumphans
Exilit, impatiens diſcendi quis novus hoſpes
Venerat. Interea furit intus ridiculus Mus,
Et fronte & pedibus pugnat, jamque intervallis
Clathrorum caput impingit, ferrumque fatigat
Dentibus inſanis. Sic olim in retia Marſus

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Actus aper fremit horrendus, ſinuoſaque quaſſat
Vincula, ludibrium catulis: diffuſa per artus
It ſpuma, arrectæque horrent in pectore ſetæ.
Poſtera lux oritur, decurrunt montibus altis
Præcipites Cambri, nam cunctas venit ad aures
Res nova. Quippe Aſinus, ſolitâ gravitate remiſſâ,
Et jam pigritiæ oblitus, laſcivior hædo
Aſcendit montem; qua rauco gutture Cambrum
Præconem ſimulans, ter diſtorto ore rudebat,
Ter ſonuit te, Taffi, & publica dixit amicis
Gaudia. Bubo etiam (Cambrorum dictus ab illo
Tempore Legatus) per compita ubique, per urbes
Totâ nocte errans, roſtrum ferale feneſtris
Stridulus impegit, cecinitque inſtantia Muris
Funera. Parturiunt montes, atque agmine denſo
Pembrochiæ multus ruit incola, Merviniæque;
Quique tenet Bonium; & Mariduni mœnia vate
Inclyta Merlino; veniunt fœcunda Glamorgan
Quos alit, & Vagæ potor, rigiduſque colonus
Gomerici montis. Tum circumſtante coronâ
Illudit capto Taffi, iratumque laceſſens.
Nequicquam lucteris, ait, damnaberis aræ
Victima prima meæ, memorique hæc limina tinges
Sanguine: ſpes nulla eſt, retro fugientibus obſtant
Non exorandi poſtes; dabis, improbe pœnas
Pro meritis, vitamque ſimul cum carcere linques.
Vix ea fatus erat, cum ludicra felis aprico
Culmine deſiliit tecti, quo ſæpe ſolebat
Cruribus extenſis molli langueſcere luxu;
Aſpicit inſtantem captivus, & erigit aures,
Gibboſoque riget tergo, nec limen apertum
Jam tentare audet, ſed in ipſo carcere ſolam
Spem libertatis ponens, ſua vincula prenſat,
Unguibus hamatis, pedibuſque tenacibus hæret;
Excutitur tamen, & felis rapidiſſima prœda
Involat, ac fruſtra luctantem evadere ſævo
Implicat amplexu, crudeliaque oſcula figit.

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Nulla datur requies, agili ſinuamine caudæ
Gaudia teſtatur victrix, & flexile corpus
Laſcivo verſans ſaltu, modo corpore prono
Attentè invigilat Muri; modo colla benignis
Unguiculis leniter palpans, mentitur amorem
Dum lacerare parat: variâ ſic arte jocoſam
Barbariem exercet, lepidaque tyrannide ludit.
At nugis tandem defeſſa, nec amplius iram
Diſſimulans, acuit dentes, & more leonis
Impaſti incumbit prædæ: jam pectore ab imo
Murmurat, & tremulos artus, & ſparſa cruore
Viſcera dilaniat. Plebs circumfuſa cruorem
Inviſum aſpiciens, lætis clamoribus implent
Æthera, clamoreſque Echo, Cambræ incola terræ,
Læta refert; reſonant Plinlimmonis ardua moles
Et Brechin & Snowdon; vicina ad ſidera fertur
Plauſus, & ingenti ſtrepit Offæ foſſa tumultu.
Tu, Taffi, æternum vives, tua munera Cambri
Nunc etiam celebrant, quotieſque revolvitur annus
Te memorant: patrium gens tota tuetur honorem.
Et cingunt viridi redolentia tempora Porro.

F I N I S.

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